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PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 16683-1-2

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: *James J. Weller*

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

GERALD BLATT

Application No. 09/289,000

Filed: February 25, 1997

For: JOINT TREATING METHOD

Customer No. 20350

Confirmation No. 8112

Examiner: Paul B. Prebilio

Technology Center/Art Unit: 3738

AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111  
June 7, 2004

**RECEIVED**

JUN 17 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3738

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As a precautionary measure, applicant requests an extension of time, if needed and if not separately attached hereto, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the fee therefor to our deposit account in accordance with our standing authorization for such charges.

In response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.